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Private Read. Room

SHE'S WELL EDUCATED.

A Woman Who Has Learned Entirely by Careful Listening.

The wonderful development of certain faculties in the cases of persons who have lost the use of some of their natural functions, or of others whose faculties have not been fully developed, has long been a matter of remark, but it is not alone the outside observers who appreciate the provisions of nature for the benefit of the unfortunates. The sufferers themselves often appreciate this fully, and in some instances, after years, grow to depend so much upon their acquired faculties as to be afraid of a change, even if they have the chance of one.

An illustration of this is given by a woman in Brooklyn who never has learned to read or write. In no way could one discover this except by her own admission or by putting her to a direct test, for she is one of the best educated women in the country, conversant with languages, art, literature and all the current topics of the day. She is rich, too, and could afford all the services of the best teachers if she but chose to learn to read, but she refuses to do so.

When this woman was a child, her parents lived far from schools, so she had no chance then to learn to read or write. As a mere child she began to earn her own living, and again the chance for schooling slipped away. Then she married and the cares of a family took up her time. By the time the babies were off her hands, her husband had grown rich, and then she began her real education, and now, as a widow, she continues it. Her companions read to her and talk with her about all the topics which interest her. Years of such work have stored her mind with a rich treasure of knowledge, and there is not a page of a book that has been read to her that she is not familiar with. Her stores of knowledge are at her instant command. Why will she not learn to read? Because, she says, she fears that this wonderful memory, which is now such a treasure house to her, might be impaired if she were to do anything to weaken the demands upon it.

What such a memory can do is well illustrated in the case of a tailor of this city who cannot read or write. He is probably the most widely known man in his business here, as for many years he has done business with New York's firemen and policemen. Almost every man of these two bodies has dealings with this tailor, and each month between the first and the tenth days he visits every station house and engine and truck house in this city to collect his dues. He has acquired considerable wealth, and it is said of him that in all the years he has dealt with the firemen and policemen he never was known to make a mistake of a cent in any man's account, although all his records of transactions have been kept in his head. —New York Sun.

WHEN GRANT WAS POOR.

Time in His Career When He Needed the Wherewithal.

General W. H. L. Barnes, one of the leaders of the San Francisco bar, at a meeting of the California commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, told the following story about General Grant. It was told years ago to General Barnes by Captain Richard L. Ogden, once a clerk in the office of the United States quartermaster at San Francisco, and General Barnes recently copied it from Captain Ogden's diary.

It was that when Grant resigned his commission as captain, at the age of 33, being then in Oregon, he went to San Francisco on his way home and presented to Captain Ogden a certificate of per diem service on a court martial amounting to about \$40. The certificate was incorrectly drawn, and Grant with a look of despair asked Captain Ogden's permission to sleep on the lounge in the latter's office, saying he had not a cent to his name. He slept on the rickety office lounge, and Ogden agreed to cash the certificate personally and to send it back to Oregon for correction. Grant had expected to buy passage for himself to New York in the steamer, but Ogden went with him to the Pacific Mail Steamship office and procured for him a cabin passage pass, or what was the nearest to it the steamship company could give, for Grant had to pay his railroad fare across the isthmus. This, however, left him \$15, and Grant was very grateful.

The diary quotes him as saying to Captain Ogden: "This is a great luxury and what I did not expect, and I am indebted to you for it. The prospect of never being able to reciprocate is certainly remote, but strange things happen in this world, and there is no knowing." —Pittsburg Dispatch.

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QUEEN STREET

THE QUEEN'S INFLUENCE.

As the Queen grows in years we seem to realize more and more that her personal influence in foreign affairs is very considerable. A recent article in the London Daily News shows that Her Majesty has also had a long standing and sometimes active sympathy with the advocates of a federation of the Empire. The writer says: "In the interesting series of articles which Mr. Poultney Bigelow is contributing to Harper's Magazine we find the following testimony, from that unbiased eye witness, to the native estimate of English rule. "Every chief of the Basuto country," he says, "and through him every black warrior—I might almost say every black man from the Zambesi to the Cape—is brought up in the faith that there is, far away, a white Queen, who, like a goddess of the ancients, can be invoked for the protection of the black. English rule in South Africa has been rough and ready in many cases, but so far as the black man is concerned, has been vastly more humane than that of the black man towards his fellow blacks. Even today the black man prefers English rule to that of Portugal, France or Germany, and this not merely because the English Government has more jealously guarded the rights of black natives, but because England is credited with greater powers of enforcing her wishes than any other Government that has so far attempted to colonize the 'Dark Continent.'" There are two persons who may be called the pioneers in spreading this cult of the Great White Queen. One is the veteran Sir George Grey, the best of all south African Governors. The other is Her Majesty the Queen herself, who was ever Sir George Grey's warm admirer. The personal interest which the Prince of Wales is displaying in South African affairs just now is hereditary. His royal mother has always exhibited the same, and forty years ago, when Cabinets and Parliaments were blind to the trend of events, the Queen warmly espoused those ideas of expansion and federation which are now the common property of us all. The relations of the Queen and Sir George Grey, as bearing on this point, form the subject of an interesting chapter in the current number of the Review of Reviews.

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HARPER'S MAGAZINE.

The May number of Harper's Magazine will consist of a variety of interesting contributions. There will be an article on "Cross Country Riding," by Caspar Whitney, with illustrations by C.D. Gibson reviewing the history in this country of one of the most interesting forms of sport. George W. Smalley, who for so many years acted as London correspondent for the New York Tribune, and has an intimate acquaintance with English society, will contribute a paper on "English Country House Life." Dr. Henry Smith Williams will discuss the "Geological Progress of the Century"; and in "The Hundred years' Campaign" Professor Francis N. Thurn will present a study of American political history. The new instalment of "The Martians," by George du Maurier, will be accompanied by characteristic illustrations by the author.

Queen Victoria visited the Prince of Wales' racing yacht Britannia at Nice and conferred the medal of the Victorian Order upon Capt. Carter, the yacht's commander.

Wall Papers.—Leading patterns, best quality, lowest prices at McMILLAN & Hornsby's.

DRESS PARADE.

Many of the newest bodices are draped on the cross and are pointed back and front.

In drossy evening toilets the pretty butterfly sleeves are very frequently made to match the skirt.

Toques, by which are meant bonnets without strings, are just now more esteemed than hats for dressy afternoon wear.

New very pretty inch wide squares of open canvasslike silk that require a taffeta lining are among the novelties in summer fabrics.

New dress skirt models are finished with flounces at the hem, with row after row of tiny frills, with long overskirts caught up at one side.

There is a rage for tucked bodices of silk or very light wool materials, and for the summer organdies, swiss, muslins, india linens and other thin textiles.

The torador waistband, cut on the cross and formed of three, five or seven apparently careless folds, is a most charming finish to a soft, full fronted bodice.

Very beautiful natural looking violets, with leaves and stems apparently a trifle wilted, exquisitely shaded and very faintly perfumed, are still the great rage as a garniture for elegant spring hats and bonnets.

Cats and skirts of tweed and cheviot are renewing their youth, and instead of representing a vogue that is at least a dozen years old, might, judging by their present very fashionable attitude, be almost entering on their first season.

Among the minor additions to spring gowns imported or made by high class modistes are noted very small pad bustles and rather narrow graduated dress extenders, formed variously of moireen covered with silk, mohair or rustle percaline.

Entire skirts are cut in circular shape, then accordion plaited. Other shapes are gored or have fancy side panels, and so on ad infinitum, and there is neither shape, height, style nor taste that cannot be exactly suited this season.—New York Post.

THE PASSING SHOW.

The modern warship is a very dangerous looking machine—in a drydock.—Indianapolis Journal.

After the run on the banks made by the rivers they are making deposits again.—Pittsburg News.

The X ray is young yet, of course, but it is doing enough work to entitle it to be named pretty soon.—Pittsburg Times.

According to official figures, lately published, "76,000 persons in Vienna live, sleep and cook in one room." It must be a very large room.—Chicago Tribune.

Paul Kruger made no impression when he appealed to British honor, but when he asked for money compensation he hit John Bull where he lives.—Buffalo Express.

The Sons of Delaware in Philadelphia have decided, as the result of a debate, that the whipping post in their native state ought to be abolished. That settles it.—Wilmington News.

One trouble about the United States army and militia is that they have too many kinds of rifles to choose from, and none of them warranted to discourage a soldier about fighting after he is shot.—St. Louis Republic.

An article entitled "How a Woman Should Conduct Herself at Home" was written by a lady living in Springfield, O., and its publication brought her a husband from Whitehall, N. Y. If you want a husband, write for one.—Utica Press.

A North Dakota farmer claims that strips of newspapers soaked in sour milk and fed to hens greatly increase their laying qualities. This explains the flavor of some of the spring chickens. They have not been fed on the religious exchanges.—Minneapolis Journal.

THE POULTRY YARD.

With early broilers sex cuts no figure. Dark feathers usually cover a dark skin. Usually fat fowls are uncertain breeders. Lazy hens lay on fat, but busy hens lay eggs.

Coal oil applied to the roosts will kill all kinds of parasites.

Hens that are laying regularly should have a little extra food.

Provide the laying hens with plenty of shell producing material.

Young pullets rarely make good mothers. Old hens are better.

Tobacco stems put in with the straw in the nests will prevent lice.

Fowls require a variety of food. They get very tired of any one kind.

In selecting the breeding cock see that he is of good size, broad chest, strong wings and legs and carries his head high.

If the rooster is faulty, do not breed from him, even if the pullets are of the standard. Everything in point of plumage and symmetry depends upon the sire.

If an egg is chilled, its vitality will be destroyed. For this reason care should be taken to gather the eggs frequently, especially when they are wanted for hatching.—St. Louis Republic.

PRESIDENTS AS PENMEN.

Franklin Pierce wrote an abominable hand.

Martin Van Buren used a pen as little as he could.

John Tyler's chirography was clear, legible and open.

Zachary Taylor used a blunt pen and abjured flourishes.

William Henry Harrison wrote a cramped, scholastic hand.

James A. Garfield wrote the best hand of all the presidents.